

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT The Krumovo, Plovdiv, and Graf Ignatiev Airfields

DATE DISTR.

22 June 1953

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The Krumovo Airfield

1. A military airfield is located 100-200 meters north of the railroad station at Krumovo (N 42-05, E 24-48). The field occupies an area approximately 2,000 by 3,000 meters in size, is enclosed by a barbed wire fence about two meters high, and is guarded by a sentinel of the Bulgarian Air Force.

2. A high Soviet officer is the airport commander. The field is a garrison for both Soviet and Bulgaria Air Force troops.

3. [redacted] a concrete runway approximately 1,200 by 500 meters in size. [redacted]
[redacted] the airfield is a base for jet planes [redacted]
[redacted] five or six German Focke fighter planes on the field.

4. [redacted] a large airplane repair shop is located at the field. It employs approximately 500 men, most of whom are specialists.

The Plovdiv Airfield

5. A joint military and civilian airfield is located three or four kilometers south-southeast of Plovdiv, immediately east of the road which leads to Asenovgrad. The field occupies an area about 4,000 by 2,000 meters in size, is enclosed by a barbed wire fence approximately 1.20 meters high, and is guarded by sentries of the Bulgarian Air Force.

6. [redacted] 30 or 40 German Focke fighter planes, two or three German twin-engine planes, and 10 or 15 German Junker-52 planes at the field. During daylight hours there is little activity, limited to a few training flights. During the night there are numerous landings and take-offs of training flights. The runway is lighted and searchlights are also used. During the night [redacted] artillery fire [redacted] were part of the antiaircraft training courses.

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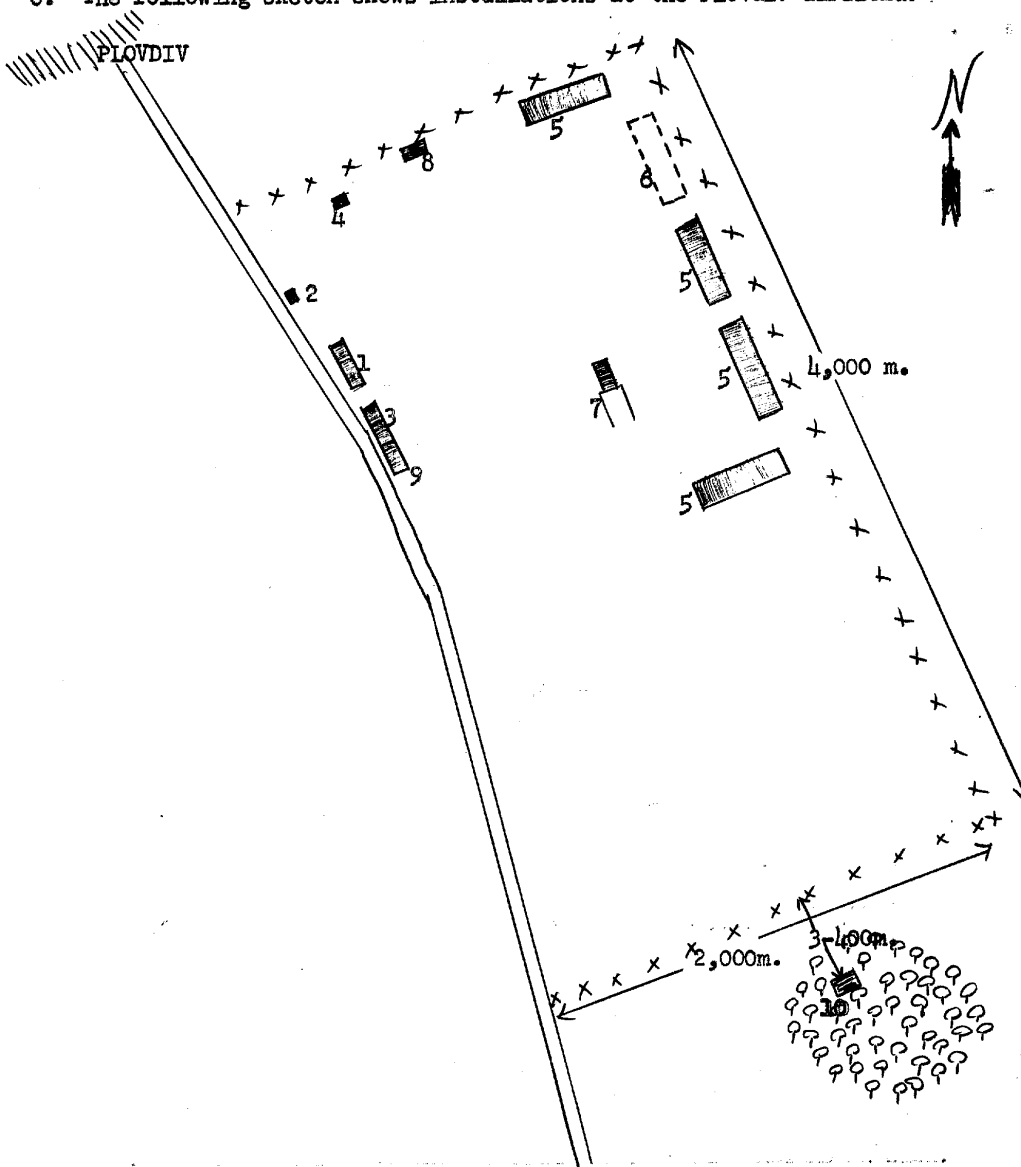
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7. Most of the pilots of the civil air lines are Soviets, because several Bulgarian pilots have escaped with their airplanes. Passengers are searched before being allowed on board the planes. The following air lines use the Plovdiv airfield:
- Sofia-Plovdiv, daily service in twin-engine planes of Soviet production bearing the letters L. D. A. or L. Z.; and
 - Plovdiv-Burgas-Varna, daily service in planes of the same type as on the Sofia-Plovdiv line.
8. The following sketch skows installations at the Plovdiv airfield:



- Control tower, 1-story building about 12 by 6 meters in size.
- Guard building, 1-story, about 4 by 4 meters in size.
- Workshops, 1-story building about 50 by 6 meters in size.
- Passenger control station, 1-story building, about 6 by 4 meters in size.

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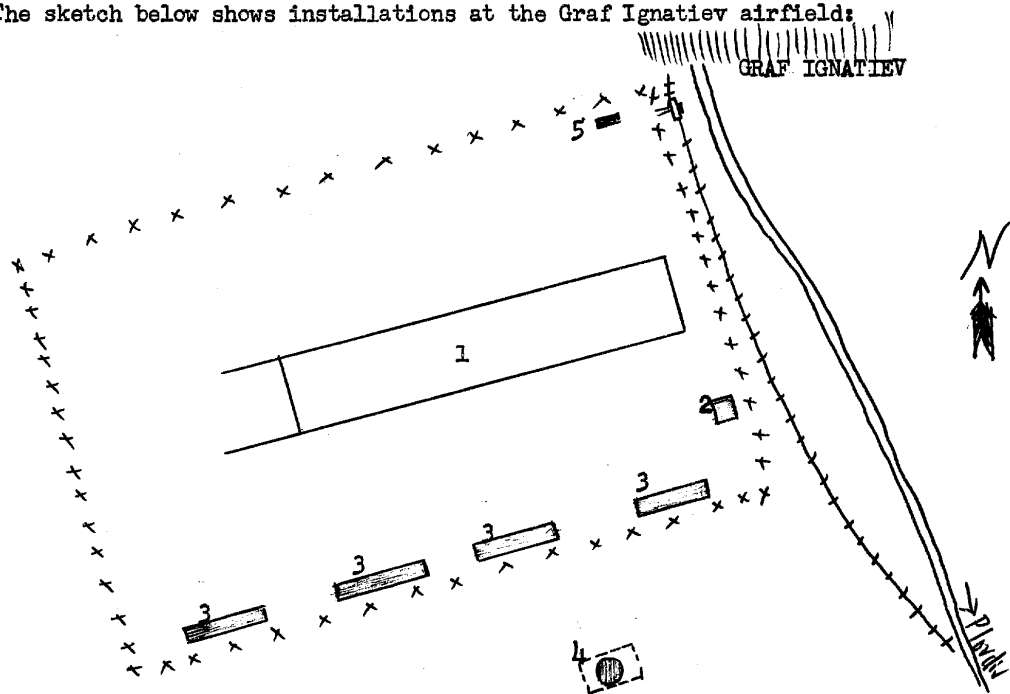
5. Hangars, stone masonry construction with corrugated metal roofs and sliding metal doors.
6. Hangar under construction.
7. Entrance to underground shelter.
8. Officers' mess, 1-story stone masonry building, about 10 meters square.
9. Airmen's mess.
10. Underground fuel storage, located in a woods 300-400 meters south of the field.

The Graf Ignatiev Airfield

9. A military airfield is located approximately 200 meters west of the railroad station at Graf Ignatiev (N 42-17, E 24-45). The field was built in 1951 and Trudovaks were still at work as of September 1952. It occupies an area approximately 6,000 by 4,000 meters in size, is enclosed by a barbed wire fence, and is guarded by an Air Force sentry armed with a PPSH submachine gun (Shpagin). Access to the zone is forbidden for civilians.

10. Bulgarian and Soviet units are garrisoned at the field. [redacted] six or seven metal single-engine planes, two-seaters, with radial engines, which are allegedly used for training. [redacted] jet planes in flight over the field [redacted] are based at the airfield.

11. The sketch below shows installations at the Graf Ignatiev airfield:



1. Concrete runway about 1,500 meters long and 300 meters wide.
2. Control tower and airmen's lodgings, 3-story building 50 by 20 meters in size.
3. Hangars, with vaulted, corrugated metal roofs and sliding metal doors.
4. Fuel depot.
5. Guard house, a 1-story building approximately 10 by 3 meters in size.

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Military Units in the Plovdiv Area 2. Military Units in the Ruse Area	DATE DISTR.	22 June 1953	
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DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
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MILITARY UNITS IN THE PLOVDIV AREA

Commands

- 25X1 1. [] an unidentified Military Command was located in a 2-story building on Saffdinenie Square which was the headquarters of the Second Army Command during World War II. The building is approximately 20 by 60 meters in size. []
 25X1 [] this is the principal Command in Plovdiv. On the door of the building
 25X1 is the inscription: "Military Command." Military Police armed with PPSH submachine
 25X1 guns (Shpagin) guard the building. [] the commander was General
 25X1 Stanchev. [] Soviet officers []
 25X1 [] are based here.
2. An unidentified military command is located in a small 3-story building on Otez Paisiy Street in Plovdiv. The first floor is occupied by a military pharmacy, the second floor by an unidentified military command, and the third floor is a convalescent home for officers.

Military District

3. The Plovdiv military district has its headquarters at No. 19 or No. 21 Otez Paisiy Street in a 1-story building approximately 20 by six meters in size.

Troops

4. An unidentified artillery regiment occupies barracks in the Tolipenovovo quarter of Plovdiv, across from the city cemetery. The barracks consist of numerous buildings
 25X1 [] they occupy an area about 500 meters
 25X1 square. The area is enclosed by a wall about three meters high and is guarded by
 sentries posted at the gate and around the whole area. The guards are armed with
 either PPSH submachine guns or ordinary automatic rifles. The regimental strength
 is 1,500 men. [] weapons:

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- a. German 180 mm. cannons, mounted on four wheels with pneumatic tires, drawn by half-tracks;
 - b. Cannons about 100 mm., mounted on two wheels with pneumatic tires, drawn by three teams of horses, no muzzle control, four attendants per gun, ammunition for the guns drawn by trucks or two teams of horses; each ammunition caisson has eight metal cases with nine shells per case; and
 - c. Antiaircraft 50-60 mm. guns, Soviet make, mounted on two wheels with pneumatic tires, muzzle control, drawn by half-tracks.
5. An unidentified tank unit occupies barracks in the Tsariaka quarter of Plovdiv. The barracks occupy an area about 150 by 100 meters in size and consist of one 2-story building about 80 by 30 meters in size and a garage for tanks and trucks, of stone masonry construction, 150 meters per side, in the following shape: [REDACTED] The unit has 300-400 men. [REDACTED] equipment:
- a. Four or five old-type light tanks, German make, armed with a machine gun and a small cannon (about 40 mm.);
 - b. Approximately 10 new Soviet tanks, poorly finished, armed with a cannon (about 60 mm.);
 - c. Four or five Soviet tanks, model T-34, 50 tons, armed with a cannon about 70 mm., and a small cannon of unknown caliber;
 - d. German Steyr trucks, 5-ton; and
 - e. Half-tracks.
6. An unidentified infantry regiment and unidentified engineer units occupy barracks in the Sadiyski quarter (now called the university quarter) of Plovdiv, on a street which crosses Georgi Dimitrov Boulevard. [REDACTED] the barracks area [REDACTED] is enclosed by a wall about 2.5 meters high, [REDACTED] access is forbidden to civilians. The infantry regiment has a strength of about 900-1,000 men, and the engineer unit about 300-400 men. [REDACTED] half-tracks, portable radios, telephones, and pontoons for bridge construction.
7. An unidentified motorized unit occupies barracks in the outskirts of Plovdiv on the road which leads to Prolav. The barracks occupy an area approximately 250 by 150 meters in size. The unit has a strength of about 600 men. [REDACTED] cannons of about 70 mm. size, mounted on two wheels with pneumatic tires, and drawn by trucks of German manufacture.
8. An unidentified military police unit occupies barracks at No. 4 Voyniska Street in the vicinity of the city jail. The barracks occupy an area about 250 by 400 meters in size; [REDACTED] four or five 1-story buildings of modest dimensions. The unit is known as P.T. (Podelenie Tayfun; Storm Podelenie). Its members wear ordinary Army uniforms but have a blue band on their caps. When on patrol duty, they wear a red arm band with the inscription K. P. (Komandantski Patrul) when concerned with the surveillance of enlisted men and V. K. P. (Voenna Komandantski Patrul) when concerned with the surveillance of officers and non-commissioned officers.
9. An unidentified infantry regiment occupies barracks on Stantsionna Street (which leads to the middle of the city) in Plovdiv. The unit has a strength of 1,000-1,200 men.

Services

10. An officers' club is located in a 3-story building about 50 by 30 meters in size on the central square in Plovdiv. The construction is divided as follows:

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- a. Ground floor, dining and meeting room;
- b. First floor, club rooms;
- c. Second floor, officers' lodgings; and
- d. Third floor, service personnel quarters.

Soviets at Plovdiv

11. There are no organic Soviet detachments at Plovdiv, [REDACTED] some Soviet officers attached to the Command headquarters on Saffdinenie Square. There are numerous Soviet civilians at Plovdiv, lodged on Veliko Turno Street which is closed to traffic and guarded by Bulgarian Militia personnel.

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MILITARY UNITS IN THE RUSE AREATroops

12. An unidentified artillery regiment occupies barracks in the vicinity of Lipnik Boulevard, approximately a kilometer west of the railroad station at Ruse. The unit has a strength of 1,000-1,200 men.
13. An unidentified infantry regiment, strength about 1,200 men, occupies barracks approximately 150 meters east of the Ruse railroad station. The barracks consists of a single, large 2-story building.

Military Hospital

14. A military hospital is located approximately 250 meters east of the Ruse railroad station in the vicinity of the infantry barracks. [REDACTED] the hospital has modern equipment and that soldiers receive good medical care at the hospital.

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT 1. Factories at Plovdiv and Sopot
2. Sabotage, Medical, Customs Controls,
and Miscellaneous Information

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FACTORIES AT PLOVDIV AND SOPOT

Automobile Spare Parts Factory

1. A repair shop and spare parts factory of the UAT (Upravlenie na Avtomobilniniya Transport; Auto Transport Management) is located on Kudoglu Street in Plovdiv. It occupies an area 200 meters square and consists of a large 3-story building and various smaller buildings. Approximately 600 workers are employed in three 8-hour shifts per day, as follows:
 - a. From 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.;
 - b. From 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.; and
 - c. From 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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2. Production consists of spare parts for various types of trucks [redacted] Skoda, Praha, Molotov, Tatra, Jeep, and Dodge makes.

Maritsa Textile Factory

3. The Maritsa Cotton Textile Factory is located in the Tsarskiaka quarter of Plovdiv. It consists of a building 200 meters square and employs 1,200-1,400 workers in three 8-hour shifts per day; the shift schedule is the same as that listed above.
4. Production consists of cotton cloth for wearing apparel, including waterproof cloth. The trade mark "Maritsa" is stamped on the selvages of the cloth.

Dub Textile Factory

5. The Dub Textile Factory is located in the Tsarskiaka quarter of Plovdiv. It consists of a 2-story building approximately 200 meters square. About 1,000 workers are

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employed in three 8-hour shifts per day, on the same shift schedule as the factories listed above. Production consists of cotton thread of good quality.

Andrei Zhurukov Textile Factory

6. The Andrei Zhurukov Textile Factory is located in the Tsarskiaka quarter of Plovdiv. It consists of a 2-story building approximately 150 meters long and employs 300-400 workers on the same shift schedules as listed above.

Flour Mills in Plovdiv

7. There are four State flour mills in Plovdiv, as follows:
- a. Steam mill located in the Tsarskiaka quarter, a 3-story building approximately 50 by 30 meters in size, employs about 100 workers, and produces 50 tons of flour per day;
 - b. Electric mill located on Kuklensko Street, a 3-story building approximately 80 by 130 meters in size, employs about 150 workers, and produces 60-70 tons of flour per day;
 - c. Steam mill located on Ferdinandovsko Street, directed by Ivan Pandev who is about 40 years old, produces 55-60 tons of flour per day; and
 - d. Steam mill located on Bela Vodenitsa Street, a 3-story building approximately 80 by 30 meters in size, produces 45 tons of flour per day.

State Grain Silos in Plovdiv

8. A group of five or six cement silos for State grain storage are located on Kuklensko Street in Plovdiv, facing the electric flour mill listed above. The silos were built in 1947, are 20 meters in diameter, about 40 meters high, and have a capacity of 30,000-40,000 tons each. They are guarded by reliable guards armed with ordinary repeater rifles.

Oil Factory in Plovdiv

9. A sunflower seed oil factory is located in the Tsarskiaka quarter of Plovdiv, adjacent to the Maritsa Textile Factory. It consists of two small 2-story buildings and employs 70-80 workers.

Munitions Factory at Sopot

10. A munitions factory is located approximately three kilometers northwest of Sopot. It is enclosed by a brick wall surmounted by barbed wire, occupies an area of five or six square kilometers, and employs more than 2,000 workers. [REDACTED] the factory produces all types of ammunition for the Army [REDACTED] began producing airplane bombs in 1949.

MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INFORMATION

Antiaircraft and Chemical Defense Courses

11. All members of the Fatherland Front are required to take chemical defense and antiaircraft courses (PVKO-Protivovuzdushna i Khimichna Otbrana; Antiaircraft and Chemical Defense), and similar courses are offered in the schools for minors under 18 years of age who are not Fatherland Front members. The courses extend for a period of two or three months, are held for 1-hour periods two or three times a week, starting at 6:00 p.m. after the normal work-day. Instructors are civilians and various minor military officers.

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12. During the courses, practical exercises are carried out. Neutralized bombs of Western production, as well as charts showing the functions of the component parts, are displayed in the Fatherland Front headquarters. [] gas-proof clothing on display.¹

Air Raid Shelters in Plovdiv

13. In 1950, repair work was started on the air raid shelters in Plovdiv, as well as on enlarging the shelter facilities. The work was carried out at night by civilians. The shelters are located as follows:²
- a. On Danov hill, covering 100 meters thick, capacity 2,000 persons; work under way consists of enlarging, adding new entrances, and reinforcing with concrete;
 - b. On Liberty hill, covering 200 meters thick, capacity 15,000-16,000 persons;
 - c. On Mladegta hill, covering 250 meters thick, four entrances, capacity 20,000 persons; and
 - d. On Nebet hill, covering 250 meters thick, capacity 6,000-7,000 persons, but is allegedly to be enlarged to accommodate 40,000 persons; informant believes that the shelter is used as a cold storage depot for cheese at present.

Sabotage

14. In 1951, the Communist Party representative at the canning factory of the District Cooperative Union which is located approximately 200 meters from the Krichim railroad station threw a handful of coins into marmalade which was destined for export to the USSR. This caused 1,100 kilograms of the product to spoil. The saboteur was immediately arrested and tried, and the factory directors were dismissed. After the incident, all workers were forbidden to bring anything into the work area and were carefully searched at the factory entrance.
15. In 1950, the chemist and his assistant at the Krichim canning factory made a mistake in the formula used to prevent fermentation of the marmalade, and destroyed four or five tons of the product.
16. In 1950, the engineer Khristo Bachvarov of the UAT spare parts factory on Kudoglu Street in Plovdiv made 1,000 defective bolts. He was arrested and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Medical Assistance

17. There has been a large increase in the number of hospitals in Bulgaria in the past few years, but the medical still has several important deficiencies, as follows:
- a. Scarcity of medicines;
 - b. Poorly-trained doctors; and
 - c. Insufficient and badly-prepared food in the hospitals.
18. Infant mortality is especially high, in spite of the increased medical aid.
19. The following types of medicines are in short supply:
- a. Penicillin, a Soviet type of only fair quality is available; the American product is especially in demand; penicillin is not on sale in the pharmacies and is furnished only to hospitals;

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- b. Streptomycin;
- c. PAS (Para Amino Salicylic Acid), an anti-tuberculosis product of French manufacture;
- d. Tincture of iodine;
- e. Calcium injections;
- f. Tonics in general;
- g. Good quality aspirin;
- h. "Veramon", sold only by a doctor's prescription; and
- i. Quague, available only in limited quantities.

Payment to Mothers of Illegitimate Children

20. In late 1951, according to a recent law, unwed mothers could receive a payment of 50,000 leva for their child provided they carried out the following:
- a. Renounced their rights to the child (both on the part of the mother and the father) which would be taken by a special agency, educated, and trained in a suitable occupation;
 - b. Nurse the child for the first three to five months; in general, mothers are also assigned a second child to nurse over this period; and
 - c. The mother loses all rights even to see her child at the end of the nursing period.

Customs Regulations for Jews at the Yugoslav Border

21. The Jews wishing to emigrate from Bulgaria to Palestine received the following treatment at the Dragoman center:
- a. The women were completely undressed and searched;
 - b. The men were all searched, some were undressed;
 - c. All baggage was opened;
 - d. Each person was allowed to carry five packages (20 each) of cigarettes, provided that they were open and lacking one cigarette; cigarettes manufactured for export required a duty payment;
 - e. It was absolutely forbidden to take gold coin; and
 - f. Personal jewelry had to be left behind.

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